

Since the last SAFE Newsletter...

- *Hurricane Katrina* devastated the Gulf Coast and, as I write this newsletter, *Hurricane Rita* is bearing down on the Texas coast. The need for preparedness training could not be made more clear.
- Thirty SAFE members participated in a full-scale exercise at Fire Station 1 on Saturday, September 17th.
- SAFE Class 13 is underway with twenty-four participants, the largest SAFE class ever!

SAFE Exercise 2005...

Thirty SAFE members practiced their skills at the third annual SAFE exercise on Saturday, September 17th. Split into two teams, they established a command post at the spare tools-and-supplies cache (see photo) and assigned teams to conduct damage assessment and search for simulated victims in an apartment building, represented by the Training Tower, and a single family residence, represented by the modular building at Station 1. Search teams triaged the simulated victims based on the RPM algorithm. After the exercise, attendees enjoyed a hot dog BBQ lunch.



Next advanced SAFE event...

The next advanced SAFE event is a mass care shelter operations class. This will be a 6-hour class on Saturday, November 5th, taught by the Red Cross. The hurricanes underscored the need for volunteers to help run shelters for citizens forced from their homes. After SAFE teams have helped secure their neighborhoods, SAFE members may elect to volunteer to work at a Red Cross shelter. You will receive a notification of this class by email and, as always, you can register by email to safe@ci.milpitas.ca.gov or by phone 408-586-2804.

Upcoming classes and events...

- The 2006 SAFE Class Calendar will be posted to the City web site soon.
- *November 5th* – Mass care shelter operations class. See above item.
- *November 10th & 12th* – Thursday evening or Saturday morning Operations Workshop for graduates of SAFE classes 12 and 13 (plus SAFE members who have not attended a prior Workshop). The Operations Workshop teaches field procedures to SAFE members, enabling them to employ their basic skills in post-disaster situations in the City of Milpitas.
- *Basic SAFE Class 14* – Begins Thursday, January 12th, through graduation on Saturday, February 25th.